

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-24 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 011834Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5411

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CU, GT, OAS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD SAYS GUATEMALA WILL NOT RENEW RELATIONS
WITH CUBA

REF: GUATEMALA 5222

SUMMARY: GUATEMALA NEITHER SPONSORED NOR OPPOSED
PROPOSAL TO STUDY LIFTING OF MANDATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST
CUBA, BUT EVEN IF OAS DECIDES TO LIFT THEN,
GUATEMALA WILL NOT REPEAT NOT RENEW DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WITH CUBA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN REGULAR MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 30,
PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WAS ASKED WHETHER HIS EARLIER
REMARKS ON CUBA (REFTEL) MEANT GUATEMALA WAS
CONSIDERING RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. PRESIDENT'S
LENGTHY REPLY WAS MOST EMOTION-LADEN AND DRAMATIC IN
TONE OF CONFERENCE WHICH LASTED TWO HOURS FIFTEEN MINUTES.

2. PRESIDENT BEGAN BY CONFIRMING PREVIOUS POSITION THAT
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GUATEMALA IS NOT RPT NOT SPONSORING STUDY OF LIFTING

SANCTIONS BUT NEITHER DOES IT OBJECT TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS DOING SO. NOTING IN PASSING CASTRO'S CRITICISM OF THE OAS, PRESIDENT SAID, "I WANT TO BE CLEAR AND EMPHATIC. IF OAS DECIDES TO LIFT SANCTIONS, MY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RPT NOT ESTABLISH EITHER DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS." (HE LATER ADDED "OF ANY KIND.")

3. "GUATEMALA," HE WENT ON, "IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES THAT HAS SUFFERED MOST FROM INTERVENTION OF FIDEL CASTRO IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I CAN NEVER FORGET THE CAMPESINOS THAT WERE MURDERED IN ISABAL, ALTA VERAPAZ, BAJA VERAPAZ, ZACAPA, CHIQUIMULA, EL PROGRESO AND JUTIAPA BY THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REBELDES (FAR) THAT WERE INDOCTRINATED, TRAINED AND SUBSIDIZED BY FIDEL CASTRO. WHEN A CAMPESINO REFUSED TO BE AN INFORMER AND SUPPLIER OF FOOD HE WAS MURDERED WITHOUT PITY. WE GUATEMALANS HAVE HAD TO SUFFER THOUSANDS OF DEATHS BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE OF CASTRO IN THE AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA. DURING THE TRICONTINENTAL CONFERENCE FIDEL CASTRO PROCLAIMED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE FAR TO CONTINUE MASSACARING PEOPLE.

4. "NOR CAN I FORGET THE MANY PUBLIC SERVANTS, NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHERS, WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO DEFEND LIBERTY. I CANNOT FORGET THOSE IN MY OWN PROFESSION (MILITARY) WHO WERE MURDERED IN THE MOST COWARDLY WAY, SUCH AS LT. COL. FIGUEROA. OTHERS, BOTH SOLDIERS AND POLICE, DIED IN COMBAT WITH THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REBELDES OF FIDEL CASTRO. CASTRO WANTED TO MAKE GUATEMALA INTO ANOTHER CUBA, BUT HE WAS MISTAKEN BECAUSE HE FOUND A VALIANT PEOPLE THAT WOULD NOT RETREAT. IN THIS COUNTRY NO ONE CAN DEPRIVE ANY CITIZEN OF HIS RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS POINT OF VIEW."
ANDREWS

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